(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Green Channel facility for importers and exporters is not linked to the value of clearances.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Combined Fiscal Deficits of the Centre and States

495. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the combined fiscal deficits of the Centre and States for the last 3 years, year-wise; and

(b) the factor of inflationary pressure on the expenditure side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per the latest information available with the Reserve Bank of India, the combined gross fiscal deficit of the Centre and States for the last three years is as follows:

	Rs. Crore
1997-98	110743
1998-99 (RE)	149544
1999-2000 (BE)	150470

(b) Increase in aggregate expenditure reflects increase in real as well as in nominal terms.

Fiscal Deficit

496. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of fiscal deficit target fixed in the last year's budget 1999-2000;

(b) whether Government have been able to contain the fiscal deficit at the target fixed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken to bring the fiscal deficit under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Fiscal deficit target for 1999-2000 was Rs. 79995 crore as per Budget 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) It is the endeavour of the Government to contain the fiscal deficit at a reasonable level by maximising non-debt receipts and controlling non-productive expenditure. A close watch is being kept on trends of expenditure with a view to taking corrective action. Instructions for containing the non-productive expenditure have been issued from time to time.

Reduction in NPAs of Banks

497. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "No respite for public sector banks from NPAs" which appeared in the Statesman dated 14th January, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government have not been taking it seriously to reduce NPAs of various public sector banks; and

(c) what further plans Government propose to make to reduce NPAs of various public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.